

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

An outer portion of the central tube portion 12 may include a tissue in-growth stabilizing cuff 15, as shown in FIG. 1, for stabilizing the inserted catheter 10 in the patient. Referring to FIGS. 6C and 7, when the catheter 10 includes a stabilizing cuff 15, a portion 130 of tunnel 102 may be dilated to enlarge the width of the tunnel 102 to receive the cuff 15 as the catheter 10 is drawn through the tunnel 102. As shown in FIG. 7, the dilated portion 130 of the tunnel is preferably dilated by sliding a sheath dilator ~~200-210~~ over an end 42 and shaft 41 of the trocar 120 when the trocar 120 is positioned in the subcutaneous tunnel 102 as shown in FIG. 6A. The sheath dilator ~~200-210~~ preferably includes a hollow bore 208, a tapered leading end 206, a substantially cylindrical portion 204, and a handle 202. The sheath dilator ~~200-210~~ is inserted through the first end 104 of the tunnel 102 and into the tunnel 102 until the tip 206 has been inserted proximate to a cuff seating point 140 in the tunnel 102 to form a dilated portion 130 of the tunnel 102. Once the dilated portion 130 is sufficiently dilated, the sheath dilator ~~200-210~~ is removed from the tunnel 102 and the trocar 120. The catheter 10 is finally positioned in the tunnel 102 when the cuff 15 is seated near an end 140 of the dilated portion 130 of the tunnel 102 as shown in FIG. 6C.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line ~~8~~⁷ with the following amended paragraph. (Please also see the amendment to this paragraph submitted in the March 10, 2004 Preliminary Amendment.)

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As shown in FIG. 6D, the catheter 10 is connected to a fluid exchange device 200. The distal end 18d of the distal veinal extension tube 18 is selectively attached to a veinal leg ~~224-228~~ of the fluid exchange device 200 by connector hub 72. Similarly, the distal end 20d of the distal arterial extension tube 20 is selectively attached to an arterial